

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL , 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^S

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 31 : DISPOSAL BAGS IN DOG PARKS

This memo responds to Councilwoman Woodson's question regarding staff concerns on the impact of removing disposal bags from the dog parks.

Each City Department was asked during the budget process to identify one percent of their General Fund budget for possible reduction either through efficiency savings or marginal service reductions. The Recreation Department identified \$156,800 in savings, of which \$117,800 were recommended for implementation by the City Manager.

Included in the marginal service reductions was the elimination of the free disposal bags in dog parks throughout the City for a savings of \$7,500. Staff feels that most of those individuals that are walking to and from the site are already bringing their own bag. Although bags at the sites are frequently used, all users can be advised in advance to bring their own bags with them. As soon as the budget is adopted, the Recreation Department will begin a public awareness campaign, advising users that beginning July 1, the Recreation Department will no longer be providing bags at the sites. At some of the more heavily used sites, the dispensers will remain and visitors to the park will be encouraged to donate bags.

Through sufficient and advance public awareness of the change in dog park amenities, staff does not anticipate a decline in the cleanliness of the dog parks with the removal of the disposal bags. However, staff will closely monitor the areas for the first few months of the fiscal year to ensure that this is the case.